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THE
ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BOMBAY
Town Hall, Bombay.

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COMPLETE PHONETIC ALPHABET,

BASED UPON

LEPSIUS' STANDARD ALPHABET,

B 397

BUT

EASIER TO LEARN, TO READ AND WRITE, AND LESS LIKELY TO BE MISTAKEN; CHEAPER TO CAST, SET UP, CORRECT, AND DISTRIBUTE; AND LESS LIABLE TO ACCIDENT.

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BY

J. G. THOMPSON,

MADRAS CIVIL SERVICE.

BOMBAY:

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NOTE.

These pages are a portion of a larger pamphlet with the same name, in which the principles of Phonetics have been fully discussed, —the proposed unpointed alphabet has been explained,—objections have been urged against several other alphabets,—and details have been given as to the advantages of different plans for printing and *for writing*. That pamphlet was so badly lithographed, that I have had the first 16 pages re-printed at Bombay during a detention on my way to England, and they are issued separately, with other extracts, that they may meet the eye of persons to whom I am unable to send copies of the pamphlet.

J. G. T.

8th November 1850.

Luke XIV 16,17. first in Lepsius' Standard Alphabet

Lyglish.	Germann.	Hindustani	Telugu
erased Version.	Hamburg. 1837.	Calcutta. 1837 {Roman Type	No title page.
sarlēn nga	16. Es war ein Mensch	16. Ek šaxṣ ne	16. Oka' vandyādu
a grēt sapar	dēr machte ein grosses	bṛā khāna kache	goppa vindu tōṭa
bēd mone	Abendmal, und lūd	bahutōṅkō bulāyā	anēkulanu pilichenu
d sent hiz	filē dārti. 17 Und	17 Aur khāne kē	17 Bhōdzana kālam
unt at sapar	sandte seinen knecht	wagt naukar kō	undu pedda-bōjana
tu sō tu	aus zur Stunde des	bhēdzā ke	vārtan' eppudu
Bat war	Abendmals, zu sagen	mikmānē ke	samastamu vinu
w' kam,	den Geladenen: Komt,	kahē ki "Āo	Siddharnāy vuvvu
fl benz är	"denn es ist alles	"ab šab kuch	rim ane vāḍuṭaki
u redi!	"bereit!	"taiyār hai!	tana sevakuni
			pampenu.
l sarlen mdn	16 Es war ein Mensch	16 Yske dazy ne	16 Oka manushyuḍu
ob a grgl sapar	der machte ein grosses	bagg khāy ke karte	goppa vindu tōṭa
d bgd mene	Abendmgl und lgd	bahutoy kō bulgyā	anēkulanu pilichenu
end sent hiz	filē datsy 17 Und	17 Aur ēkgne kē	17 Bhōdzana kālam
unt at sapar	sandte seinen knecht	wagt naukar kē	unda pedda-bōjana
tu sō tu	aus zur Stunde des	bhēdzā " ki	vārtan' eppudu
ne Bat war	Abendmgls, zu sagen	mikmāne kō	"samastamu vinu
d sō " kam,	"den geladenen "komt,	kahē ki "Āo	"Siddham ayuvuḍu
ez gl bgz ar	"denn es ist alles	"ab sab kuch	"vanē ane Oppuṭaki
au redi!	"bereit!	taiyār hai"	tana sēvakuni
			"ampenu.

and then in the Unpointed Alphabet as used for teaching foreigners.

kannaḍi	tuḷu	Malayāḷam	tamiḻ.
Bangalore. 1854.	Mangalore. 1858.	Cottayam. 1845.	No title-page.
16. Obba manuṣyanu	16. Ōru naramāni	16. Oru manuṣyan	16. Oru manidan
doḍḍa antaṃo mā-	malla tandāda-wanu	valiya rāṭṭu vannu	periya virundu
diri, bahu dūranu-	-ṇṇu maḷtoḍa dandi-	ka, dēśaṃ paḷiyum	paṇṇi, Anēkarai
-annu kariti. Antaṃ	mandoṛu leṭṭaḍa	oḻiccu. Varanna	anuppi, virundu
da hottigē	Wanaṣada poṭṭuḍu	samayattu	vēṇṭiyē tan uḍ-
kareyal-paḍ'avar-	leṭṭaḍiu' ākul-	viḷikka-ppeṭṭ'avar	-ṭṭukkāranai nōkki. Ni
-ge 'bannisi, ēnale	oḍa — ballē,	ōḷ 'Ippoḷ sakala-	-ṉ aikka-ppeṭṭ'avanu
'ellā siddha-ā-	nōtala siddha	'avum oruṅṅi y-iru	-ṇḍattukku ppōy 'ellāru-
'āgidē'	'maḷtoḍa dōḍa'	'kka koṇḍa, varuvi-	-ṭe lavanam ellanam āy
endu hēḷa,	andāḍa paṇiyare	enn̄u paṟaṅṅān āyiṭṭu	'irra Āṇaiyāl vāriṅgaḷ
tanna dāsanannu	tana dāsaṇa	avan taṉṟe suvaṟuṇa	enru sollī-v-enru
kaḷuhisid'āga,	kaḍapuḍiye.	kkārane ayaccēṣa.	anuppinān.
16. Obba manuṣyanu	16. Ōri naranuṃ- -ndu	16. Oru naanuṣyan	16. Oru manidan
doḍḍa antaṃa ma-	malla tandāda-wanu	valiya ṇṭṭa-vannu	periya virundu
diri bahu dūranu-	-ṇṇu maṣṭadu dandi-	kaṇṭattu, paḍeṭṭum	paṇṇi, Anēkar
-annu kariti. Antaṃ	manden leṭṭad-	oḻiccu. Viṭunna	aṉaittu, virundu
-da hottige	Wanaṣada poṭṭuḍu	samayatt	ṇḍiyē tan uḍ-
kareyal-paḍ'avar-	leṭṭadiu' gkaḍ	viḷikka-ppeṭṭ'avar-	-kkāranai nōkki. Ni
-ge 'bannisi ēnale	oḍa — 'ballē.	-ṭṭu. 'Ippoḷ sakala	-ṉ aikka-ppaṭṭ'avanu
-llā siddha-ā-	ṇṭṭalu siddha	'avum oruṅṅi y-iru	-ṇḍattukku ppōy 'ellā-
-gidē'	'maṣṭadu dōḍa'	kka koṇḍa, varuvi-	-ṭe lavanam ellanam āy
endu hēḷa.	andādu paṇiyare	enn̄u paṟaṅṅān āyiṭṭu	'irra Āṇaiyāl vāriṅgaḷ
tanna dāsanannu	tana dāsaṇa	avan taṉṟe suvaṟuṇa	enru sollī-v-enru
kaḷuhisid'āga,	kaḍapuḍiye.	kkārane ayaccēṣa.	anuppinān.

Luke xiv, 18, 19, 20 in the Unpointed Alphabet as used in daily

inglis	dserman	hindustany	telugu
18 And he al wid	18. Und sy fingen an	18. Us par sabhoy	18 Aite-n andaru-mmu
wan kawent begin	alle nar ainander	ne mukar zutr	okamuga neparu-
tu myk ekskyys	sie bu entschuldigen	karna surut kiya	tteppa-n aranbhinchu-
hi farst sed	der erste sprar	pahle ne use	Modaṭi vadu
unto him, Aihav	tzu jm: Ich	kahy, ki Maij ne	vanitoy "Nenu oka
'got a pis av	'habe einen Acker	'khet Zarida hai	'polamunu kon-
'graund, and Ai	'gekauft, und muss	(f) larzur hai.	'konnanu. Nen' anu-
'mast rijds go	'hinaus gehen und ihn	'ke dsake use	'muga poy dani
'and sy it: Ai	'besehen, ich	'dekhny: Maij	'tsuda valasinadi gur
'pre	'bitte	'teri minnat	'aka" nannu kshamin-
'ai	'dich,	'karta huy, ki	'cha yunu Nenu vaa-
'hav mi	'entschuldige	'meri (f) taraf se	'yuna'unu Nenu vinu
'ekskyysd	'mich	'ujr kar."	'ṭaku koncha'unnayi'ani
19 And anaddar sed,	19 Und der andere sprar	19 dusre ne kaha,	kshpponu 19 Maroy oka
'Ai hav got	'ich habe fünf Joch	'Maij ne pachas jori	ḍu "Nenu aidu'oka
'fifti yok ansksen	'Ochsen gekauft,	'bail kharida hai,	'yaddulanu konu
'and Ai go	'und ich gehe jetzt	'data huy, ki	'kontini Vatiyu
'tu pruv tem	'hin sie zu besehen,	'un ko abmaily	'parikshinchu prayuṭa
'ai pre hi dsu	'ich bitte dich mich	'Maij teri ko	'nimitamu, nannu
20 And anaddar sed,	20 Und der dritte sprar	20 tisre ne kaha	'ku. Inka okaḍu "Nen'
'Ai hav mared	'ich habe ein weib	'Maij ne biyah	'oka stree vivahamu
'a wuf, and	'genommen,	'kiya hai,	'cheyu kunnaḍu.
'berfor Ai	'darum kann ich	'is sabab se	'yenaka Nenu
'kennot kam."	'nicht kommen'	'nahiy a sakta'	"ra, leṇ"
			ani teppinchu

business; the few Tanguel letters being given in brackets

Kannada	Tulu	Malayalam	Tamil
18 Avar ellaru onde	18 Avaga ellaru ondeg	18 Uppesavar ellavarum	18 Appesudu avarvel
manadaggi maraya	ondeg ada iddi	oru manitan aayittul	ellaram pokku
bekendu annad	pagiyore todagiyore	rajavayirikkuvolam	tolaville kodaiyore
arambhisidaru Modala	dimbud aga	Mumbil ullil avan	Oruvan
anneyavanu avanige	agada Yajna nade	avanotu/[illegible]nnavanu	donnadu, Oru
kelavaanu kendu	kendonu kiragiyu	vayal nilam kondil	vayal nilattai
kondiddakkore,	dettonde. Yenka	undu. Ava	kondenagu pogi
adarannu kogge	agatiyada pattadakkada	poyi kuttiyanikkum	adai pirar kka ann
nyda beku,	avana tiyyda;	avanayam unda:	iyam ayirikkirpadi
annannu mannisu	enka kotanu	enne ollanayi/[illegible]ppikka	Agaiyal inakku mo
Ekendu nimm	Yodiu endada	Enam ennu/[illegible]ppan	nukku vendumenra
anna kelli kollut	ninoda nattanuva	ninnotu apekshikk	unnai vendi kkolla
one andanu	andada panda	annu anna paranna	gurge enran
19 kar obbanu	19 bokk oru	19 Appol mattoruttan	19 Oru oruvan
Yajna anna dagide	Yajna anna dagide	Yajnayaga antoru	donnadu, Andoru
illuga sannu kondu	kudisena kiragiya	kala kondil unda	inadu konden
kondiddakke sannagi	dettonde, avana	Yajnayaga avare so	Avaigalai Nan pogi
annu parisida kar	pariske maduve	dhana tiyanna pogi	tiruppikka vendum
gattige sannagaru	Yoppe. Yenka Ko	anna enne/[illegible]ppi	Agayal inakku Ko
20 kar obbanu	20 bokk ori Yajna	20 Mattoruttan um	20 Oruvaran donnadu
hannu maduve	nade hannu madana	[illegible]nnayi	pannai engam
endu kondiddakke	nadisi,	tiruvadi	pannirgal
adakkoskaru	endeg ida yenka	alakonda inikka	Adingi Nan
barad aranu,	bariyane balli	anum enakkoppika y	vara ikkudai
andanu	endada panda	[illegible]	enran

The sounds of English & some Indian languages.

Examples		Phonographic	Devanagari	Telugu	Kannada	Malayalam	Tamil	Grantham	Tigalari
E. Calm	a	˙	अ	అ	ಅ	അ	அ	അ	ಅ
. Roman	a	˙	अ	అ	ಅ	അ	அ	അ	ಅ
. File	ai	˙	ऐ	ఐ	ಐ	ഐ	ஐ	.	ಐ
. Fowl	au	˙	औ	ఔ	ಔ	ഔ	ஔ	ഔ	ಔ
. Eyrl	ê	.	ए	ఏ			ஏ		
. Fallow	ô	˙	ओ	ఓ					
. Babe	b	\	ब	బ	ಬ	ബ	ப	ബ	ಬ
. Club-house	bh	.	भ	భ	ಭ	ഭ	ப	ഭ	ಭ
C. gaḍi (a vehicle)	ḍ	˙	ड	డ	ಡ	ഡ	ட	ഡ	ಡ
H. ḍhīla (loose	ḍh	.	ढ	ఢ	ಢ	ഢ	ட	ഢ	ಢ
F. Did	d	˙	द	ద	ದ	ദ	த	ദ	ದ
G. Erde (earth)	d	˙	द	ద	ದ	ദ	த	ദ	ದ
Erdhaltig (earth holding	dh	.	ध	ధ	ಧ	ധ	த	ധ	ಧ
F. Judge	dj	˙	ज	జ	ಜ	ജ	ஜ	ജ	ಜ
H. ḍaṇḍa (stick)	ḍz	˙	ड़	ఢ	ಡ಼	ഡ	ட	ഡ	ಡ
. ḍaṇḍha (stick)	ḍzh	.	ढ़	ఢ	ಢ಼	ഢ	ட	ഢ	ಢ
F. Fail	ê	˙	ए	ఏ	ಏ	ഏ	ஏ	ഏ	ಏ
. Fell	e	˙	ए	ఎ	ಎ	എ	எ	എ	ಎ
. Fife	f	\	फ	ఫ	ಫ	ഫ	ப	ഫ	ಫ
. Gig	g	—	ग	గ	ಗ	ഗ	க	ഗ	ಗ
. Gighouse	gh	.	घ	ఘ	ಘ	ഘ	க	ഘ	ಘ
H. sugan (to say)	ṅ	⌒	ङ	ఙ	ಙ	ങ	ங	ങ	ಙ
H. ṣarf (a request)	ṅ	.	ङ	ఙ	ಙ	ങ	ங	ങ	ಙ
C. Buch (a book)	h	×	ह	హ	ಹ	ഹ	ஹ	ഹ	ಹ
H. Muḥammad	h	˙	ह	హ	ಹ	ഹ	ஹ	ഹ	ಹ
E. Hay	h	˙	ह	హ	ಹ	ഹ	ஹ	ഹ	ಹ
. Feel	i	˙	इ	ఇ	ಇ	ഇ	இ	ഇ	ಇ
. Fill	i	˙	इ	ఇ	ಇ	ഇ	இ	ഇ	ಇ
H. ḥabyl (a camel)	ḥ	⌒	ह़	హ఼	ಹ಼	ഹ	ஹ	ഹ	ಹ
E. Kick	k	˙	क	క	ಕ	ക	க	ക	ಕ
. Inkhorn	kh	.	ख	ఖ	ಖ	ഖ	க	ഖ	ಖ
H. ghyṭṭan (a Yemen	ḳ	.	क़	క఼	ಕ಼	ക	க	ക	ಕ
Te. Ḷēḍa (time	ḷ	⌒	ऌ	ఌ	ಌ	ഌ	ழ	ഌ	ಌ
E. Loll	l	˙	ल	ల	ಲ	ല	ல	ല	ಲ
G. Lilie (a lily)	l	˙	ल	ల	ಲ	ല	ல	ല	ಲ
E. Mum	m	˙	म	మ	ಮ	മ	ம	മ	ಮ
E. King	ṅ	˙	ङ	ఙ	ಙ	ങ	ங	ങ	ಙ
It. Bagno (bath)	ñ	.	ञ	ఞ	ಞ	ഞ	ஞ	ഞ	ಞ
Ta. paṟaṟam (sound)	ṉ	⌒	न	న	ನ	ന	ன	ന	ನ
E. Nun	n	˙	न	న	ನ	ന	ன	ന	ನ
G. Neun (Nine)	n	˙	न	న	ನ	ന	ன	ന	ನ

In Phonography [illegible] to show the position of a vowel

represented in some Romanic & Indian Alphabets

Lepsius 1855	Wilson 1855	Caldwell 1852	Cotton 1859	Forbes 1861	Thompson 1845	Kittel 1858	Kittel 1848	Examples	Represented	Phonography	Devanagari	Gujarathi	Tamil	Malayalam	Kanarese	Telugu	Devanagari
ā	a		a	a	a	ɑ	ɑ	K. Fall.	ɑ	⌐	ऽ						
ai								Foil	ɑi	⌐							
a								Folly	a	⌐							
ō	o	o	o	ó	ó	ó	ó	Fold	o	⌐	ઽ	ૐ	ஒ	ഒ	ಒ	ఒ	ओ
o			o	o	o	o	o	G. Voll (full)	o	⌐		૦	ஓ	ഓ			
p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	E. Pipe	p	\	ऽ	પ	ப	പ	ಪ	ప	प
p'	ph	ph	ph	ph	ph	ph	ph	Up-hill	ph	.	ऽ	ફ	ஃப	ഫ	ಫ	ఫ	फ
r		r	r	r	r	r	r	H. Gaṛi (Carriage)	ṛ	⌐	ऽ	ૃ	ரி	ഠി	ಠಿ	ఠి	
r	r							K. Row	r	⌐							
		r	r	r	r	r	r	G. Herr (Master	r	⌐	ऽ	ર	ர	ര	ರ	ర	र
					r	l		Te. Maṭṭai (Fire	l	⌐				ഴ	ಳ	ళ	
		s	s			s	s	H. ajal (Origin)	s	⌐	ऽ	ૅ					
s	s							E. Source	s	⌐							
		s	s	s	s	s	s	G. Sand storm	s	⌐	ऽ	ૅ	ச	ച	ಚ	చ	स
sh	sh	sh	sh	sh	sh	sh	sh	E. Wish H. Lagge	sh	⌐	ऽ	ૅ	ஷ	ഷ	ಷ	ష	ष
sh	sh							Mission	sh	⌐							
		sh	sh	sh	ś	ś	ś	H. Śiva	ś	⌐	ऽ	ૅ	ஶ	ശ	ಶ	శ	श
		l	t			t	t	Sultan	t	⌐	ऽ	ૅ	ட				
t		t	t	t	t	t	t	Lattu (a club)	t	⌐	ऽ	ૅ	ட	ട	ಟ	ట	ट
th		th	th	th	th	th	th ṭ	Pathan (Pathán)	th	⌐	ऽ	ૅ	ற	റ	ಱ	ఱ	ड
t	t							E. Tight	t	⌐							
		t	t	t	t	t	t	G. Titel (Title)	t	⌐	ऽ	ૅ	த	ത	ತ	త	त
		th	th	th	th	th	th	Bet-haus (House of prayer)	th	⌐	ऽ	ૅ	ற	ഥ	ಥ	థ	थ
tsh	tch							E. Church	tsh	⌐							
		ch	ch	ch	c	ch	ch	H. Bhaiya (father's brother)	ch	⌐	ऽ	ૅ	ச	ച	ಚ	చ	च
		chh	chh	chh	ch	chh	chh	Bhuṭṭa (Soul)	chh	⌐	ऽ	ૅ	ச	ച	ಚ	చ	छ
th	th	s	s				th	E. Thin	th	⌐	ऽ	ૅ					
		z	z			z	d	H. Jarur (necessary)	j	⌐	ऽ	ૅ					
dh	dh	z	z			z	z	E. Thee	dh	⌐	ऽ	ૅ					
ū	ū	oo	ū	ū	ú	ú	ū	Rule	u	⌐	ઽ	ૂ	ஊ	ഊ	ಊ	ఊ	ऊ
u	u	oo	u	u	u	u	u	Full	u	⌐	ઽ	ુ	உ	ഉ	ಉ	ఉ	उ
v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	View	v	⌐	ऽ	ૅ	வ	വ	ವ	వ	व
w	w	w	w	w		w	w	We	w	⌐	ऽ	ૅ	வ	വ	ವ	వ	व
y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	Ye	y	⌐	ऽ	ૅ	ய	യ	ಯ	య	य
		z	z			z	z	H. Nizam (Nizam)	z	⌐	ऽ	ૅ					
z	z							K. Zones	z	⌐							
		z	z			z	z	H. Samjn (land)	z	⌐	ऽ	ૅ					
zh								E. Vision	zh	⌐							
	j	zh	zh			zh	z	E. Haddam (Scorpion)	z	⌐	ऽ	ૅ					

E. stands for English
G. " " German
It. " " Italian

C. stands for Canarese
H. " " Hindustani
Ta. " " Tamil
Te. " " Telugu

Advantage of a uniform Romanic Alphabet for India

It has long been an object with many who wish well to India to devise some practically useful Romanic Alphabet to represent the various Indian languages.

2. The use of such an alphabet would greatly facilitate the acquisition of those languages by Europeans[1] & would render our knowledge of them more accurate. It is essential to the practice of Col. A. J. Colin's admirable method of learning languages; & the publication of books on that method in each language would be of incalculable advantage to the country.

1. In this & other remarks I have been anticipated by the Revd Dr Caldwell, in his able letter on Romanizing the Vernacular Alphabets. But I was not aware of the existence of that letter till the draft of this paper was finished: so that my testimony is quite independent: & I think best to let it stand.

3. The use of a Romanic alphabet would quicken the administration of justice, & lessen the chances of error, by enabling each officer, European & Native, to read with ease the petitions addressed to him, & the record of each case, — however many times the Government might find it necessary to move him. And the knowledge that he did so would add much to the confidence felt in our administration.

4. The use of such an alphabet would set free for independent work a large number of Native officers, who are now employed chiefly in reading papers to the English: & in this way also it would enable the Government to spend their money to better purpose. Even when each European officer is obliged to take all evidence himself, in English, there will remain the masses of papers sent up by the Native tribunals, as well as the petitions & pleadings of his own office, the documents on which the parties rely, the processes, &c.

5. The general adoption of a Romanic alphabet would greatly facilitate the acquisition by Natives of English, as well as of Indian languages other than their own: & would thus aid the spread of European arts & sciences, & that of Christianity itself. The Natives in country villages, as well as in the towns, long to be taught English. But this has been opposed by some who wish for the spread of English, on the grounds that <u>at present</u> none but the official classes could possibly acquire a useful knowledge of it — that they already grind down the poor to the utmost of their power, — & that this new acquisition would increase their intellectual

superiority, & with it their power of oppression.

6. But if the Native languages were generally written in a Romanic character, one great difficulty in the learning of English would be removed. A Native who could read his own language would be able to read all but 3 or 4 of the letters used to express English sounds: & the pronunciation of each English word being shewn to him in familiar letters, he would pick up the language with comparative ease, & would soon be able to read it in its ordinary spelling. It is found, practically, in England & America, that children who have learned to read English by means of a Phonetic alphabet, take to reading the common spelling almost without an effort.

Necessity & easiness of the change.

7. The general introduction of a Romanic alphabet is only a question of time. Now that the education of the people has been undertaken in earnest, & that they are beginning to perceive the value of European knowledge, fresh English words will necessarily be introduced daily into each Indian language. But no Indian Alphabet has now the means of expressing all the sounds of English: & each is already so bulky & clumsy, that it would be cruel to increase the complication.

8. The Tamil alphabet must of necessity give way. It cannot express with certainty the words of its own language: & would have to be almost doubled before it could express all English sounds &c. (Shewn in the Table on pages 8 & 9), each closing consonant has to do duty for 4 different sounds: & it has to express 6.

9. As an instance of the poverty of the Tamil alphabet, it may be noticed that the letters ஞ ண by themselves denote buddhi (wisdom): while they are also the first 2 letters, or rather syllables, of puttiravar (ஞாயிறு). The last syllable, repeated, as ண்ண, expresses the 4 sounds of ti, thi, di, & dhi, in the words tithi (a lunar day) & sidhi (steadfastness). And similar examples might be given as to the other closing consonants.

10. Some of the arrangements of the Tamil alphabet are awkward in the extreme:

2. To avoid this, an attempt has been gravely made to dig out of ancient vernacular & Sanskrit books words which may have conveyed somewhat similar ideas!! And on default of these, long new words have been coined!! But such words are quite as strange to a modern Native as English words can be. To the thousands of Natives who learn English this system gives the trouble of learning 2 new words instead of one: & as regards the rest, it puts an unnecessary difficulty in the way of their communicating with the remainder of mankind. It is to be hoped that this practice will be stopped.

thus the syllables te, ṭe, to, ṭo, tau are written ತೆ, ಟೆ, ತೊ, ಟೊ, ತೌ ಟೌ i.e. ತ್+ಎ, ಟ್+ಎ, ತ್+ಒ, ಟ್+ಒ, ತ್+ಔ ಟ್+ಔ. Those last 5 syllables would be written ತೇ, ಟೇ, ತೋ, ಟೋ, ತೌ ಟೌ.

11. This inconvenience is shared by the other alphabets of South India, to a greater or less extent. Thus, the word ಪೆಣ್ಣು "a woman" is in Telugu పెండ్లి, i.e: ప్+ఎ+ణ్+ణ్+ఉ+ల్+ఇ. & in Canarese ಪೆಣ್ಣು, i.e: ಪ್+ಎ+ಣ್+ಣ್+ಉ. And the syllable rai is ರೈ, i.e: ర్+ఐ in Telugu, & ರೈ, i.e: ರ್+ಐ in Canarese.

12. There would be no difficulty in introducing a Romanic alphabet in South India at least. If the Government were to use one in all their vernacular publications, & in English books for junior classes, — & were to insist upon the use of it in all their non & aided schools, in their Courts & Cutcherries, & in the examinations for the Uncovenanted Civil Service, the reform might be effected in 3 months. Ever since I took charge of my present office, I have required that every Native word in an English paper should be spelled on Wilson's system:— & I have no doubt that I could introduce the proposed alphabet, instead of Native characters, in a fortnight from the receipt of an order. But unless it were introduced into the other offices of the district, many papers would have to be recopied for transmission to them. Dr. Caldwell thinks that the Romanic alphabet should not be used in schools in supersession of the Native characters. I think, on the contrary, that the latter should be taught only while teaching a Native language "as a language"

13. The Natives would soon be pleased with the change, I think. They are accustomed to write the words of one language in the alphabet of another. Tulu has an alphabet of its own: but it is generally written in the kannada or Malayalam character. In the Courts at Mangalore the kodagi, Malayalam, & even hindustani languages when more convenient. And Natives constantly write English words in Native characters.

14. If the Government were to take the steps suggested, the new alphabet would at once become known to all the reading & writing public. The commercial classes would soon adopt it, to save time & trouble: & there would be few left to use the vernacular characters. But for this result to be produced, it is essential that the alphabet chosen should be very simple, & capable of being written very quickly, & without risk of error. See principle 2, page 16.

15. A reform like this can be effected by no one but the Government. No one else could try it on so large a scale as to have a chance of success. Without their aid no Missionary body, however influential, could make a Romanic alphabet the chief one of their schools. No one who wished to go into business, or to enter the public service, would attend them, if all his practice in reading & writing the alphabets of business had to be acquired after he left school, while his competitors had been practising for years.

Principles to be followed

16. Many Romanic alphabets have been proposed, some with & some without diacritical points.

The former have failed of meeting with general adoption from the demand they make upon the time & patience of a writer; for there are few persons who will take the trouble of adding the many dots & accents of those alphabets, after they have finished the skeleton of a word. And some of these alphabets make it impossible to mark the emphatic accent of a word, — a matter of almost as great importance to a learner as the sound of each letter. To the class belong the alphabet of Sir W. Jones, & the elaborate scheme used in Prof. Wilson's 'Glossary of Revenue & Judicial Terms', which was recommended for general adoption by the Honorable Court.

17. To the other alphabets it is objected that they combine Roman & Italic letters in the same word, & that this is unsightly in print, & wholly inapplicable to writing. The second objection is not quite true, for the Italic letters might be underlined, as usual: & a writer would be spared all the dots & accents of the pointed alphabets. It is also untrue that 'this plan would include the ordinary simple-cases of Italics', because in an italicized word or sentence the letters which are generally in Italics would be in Romans. A similar plan is followed with whole words in the rubrics prefixed to the Athanasian & Nicene creeds, the Litany, & the Service for Easter-day.

18. But these alphabets are open to the serious objections that they employ two letters to express a simple sound, as in the case of oo for u; — that they use wholly different symbols for different lengths of the same sound, as in the cases of a for long u, & ee for long i; — & that it would be impossible to get any people but the English to adopt them.

19. No Indian Romanic alphabet that I have seen provides for the representation of the non-Indian English sounds: and no alphabet which does not can meet the wants of the present day.

20. This has been done in the 'Standard Alphabet' of Prof. Lepsius, of Berlin, which is adapted to all languages now known, & is, from its physiological basis, capable of adaptation to any others which may be discovered. It has been adopted by the Church & other Missionary Societies; & the former body have recommended it to all who are engaged in the translation of the Bible into unwritten languages.

21. Considering how great would be the advantage to philologists, ethnologists, & mankind generally, if all nations would agree to use one alphabet, it would be most desirable to adopt this scheme in its integrity, but that it requires even more time & patience than Professor Wilson's does. It seems impossible that it can ever be used in daily business; & to have one alphabet for books & another for business is out of the question.

22. Feeling myself the inconvenience & tediousness of adding the points & accents of the alphabet in Wilson's Sanskrit Grammar, & finding it difficult to get others to insert them, I have used that alphabet in public papers only; & in my private papers I have used various modifications of the alphabet which have become so widely known in England through the energy of Mr Isaac Pitman, the inventor of Phonography. But the alphabet now proposed contains only 2 of Mr Pitman's letters, viz: ŋ & ω; the rest having been discarded either as opposed to principle, or as inconvenient in combination. The whole system, however, was suggested by his use of ą for ą, & of ę for ę. In an alphabet printed in 1855 I carried down the last stroke of each long vowel, & each palatal consonant, as ų & ḑ, meaning to express them in type-printing by u, & d. But the whole of several letters had to be carried down, as ę.ī.ō.ū.ī.ū &c I resolved to make the system uniform: & then saw that it enabled me to exhibit easily the modifications of each sound.

23. When I began the preparation of this alphabet, my object was simply to suggest an easily-written equivalent for each of Lepsius' symbols: but thought & experiment made it impossible to approve of several of his arrangements; & I now submit what seems to me the true classification of the alphabet. An equivalent is given for almost every one of his symbols, & symbols are given for several sounds which have escaped him. And yet the alphabet does not contain a single dot or accent, except the dot of the i, & a dot under each of the five labial sounds of Germanus.

24. The different lengths of a vowel, & the different points of pronunciation of a consonant, are denoted by the different sizes & positions of the symbol, without taking off the pen. In writing a literary work in a Semitic language, or a work for learners, one must use paper ruled with double lines,[3] as is shewn in each horizontal row of consonants, on pages 2 & 3. But in ordinary business it will be sufficient to distinguish the triple vowels & the palatal consonants. All others may be written on the first line, as usual.

[3] In great imitation of the practice of musicians, the different positions may be termed

1st line.
1st space.
2nd line.
2nd space.

25. It is intended that each letter shall always have the form given to it on page 2, — in printing as in writing — as a capital as when a small letter. But the proportions may vary slightly, for convenience: & the letters may be placed upright, like Romans, — or with a slope to the right, thus, like Persian letters, — & may be thence called "Persians". Such letters would be more distinct than small capitals. Pitman uses 2 letters for one sound, as A a, A a; R r, R r.

26. The principles on which a Phonetic alphabet should be constructed seem to be:

1. Such signs should be chosen as demand the least possible expenditure of time & patience, in learning and in writing. From this obvious truism, the ŋ & ʒ of Wilson, & the ʒ & χ of Lepsius are objectionable.

2. No sign should be used which in its very nature gives facilities for fraud. This also is obvious: but it is an objection to every pointed alphabet. The improper presence or absence of a dot or accent may be overlooked by a practised & careful reader; & is very likely to pass unobserved in the hasty perusal which alone can be given to most business & official papers. Numbers of these, moreover are read by no one but the writers, till it is too late to alter them; & everybody must be conscious how easily one's own mistakes are overlooked. Dots, accents, & strokes may be inserted or erased after a paper has left the writer's hands. And the change, whether innocent or fraudulent, may wholly alter the meaning of a passage. In Hindustani, for instance, a dot makes all the difference between ۷ (sát), ۷ ۶۰ (sát), each of which words may be followed by 'a thousand'. The proposed unpointed forms, viz: sạt & sạt, could not be so easily tampered with.

3. Each simple sound should be denoted by a simple sign (Rule 3 of Wilson, & Rule 1 of Lepsius). Consequently ee should not be used for i: nor ng, oo, sh, & th for ŋ, u, ʃ, & ϑ.

4. Each sound should have one sign alone. (Wilson 1 & 7). Hence the aspirate should always be represented by h: & p̣ for ph is bad.

5. Each sign should be restricted to a single sound. (W. 2, L. 2). This forbids the use of y for ai, & the use of e for both ɛ & ə.

6. No sign should be used which expresses wholly different sounds in different languages, (L. 3) In other words, A sign which in any one of its languages has not a sound which it has in another language, should not be used at all. This forbids the use of z for ʒ, because in some languages it expresses nothing but the sound of ts. It also condemns Mr. Pitman's use of j & ʃ, because in German these signs denote only y & h.

7. Each vowel-sign which is used in Italian should have its Italian sound: & its form should be essentially the same for every length of sound. (W. 5).

This forbids the use of a, ä, ai, au, a, ɛ, i, ai, o, u,
& u, y, ɛɛ, ɑɑ, oo, ɒɒ.
for ɐ, a, ai, au, ɛ, ɪ, i, ɛi, ɔi, ɑ, ɒ, u.
It forbids also the use of a for the sound here assigned to it. The reasons for retaining it are given in para. 126, page 40.

8. All modifications of a consonantal sound should be denoted by modifications of the sign allotted to one of them: — (i.e. when two consonants differ in nothing but the point of pronunciation,

they are to be denoted by the same sign, the difference being indicated by a difference in the proportions & position of the sign, or by diacritical marks:— and the modifications or marks must admit of considerable variety. (W. 2, 6) It may appear that this rule is violated by the assignment of a somewhat distinct form to n. But this letter seems to have quite a distinct sound: & there is no connection between the classes beginning with k & t, any more than between those which begin with t & p. The use of m might be objected to in the same way.

9. The sign for an open consonant should not be based upon the sign for a closing consonant, nor the reverse. (W. 4.) This forbids the use of gh for g, of kh for x, & of th & dh for t & d.

10. A compound sound should be denoted by a combination of the signs allotted to its several components. This forbids the use of ō for go, & the use of ai & ou for ai & au, as well as that of c & ch for k, & that of sh for š.

11. When a vowel or consonant is pronounced with greater force than usual, it should be accented in books for learners, thus á, ǵ, t'. A less degree of force may be denoted by the grave accent, thus à, g̀, 't. This forbids the use of á & t' for ą & ţ; though not the use of ą, ţ &c.

12. Inflections of the voice may be expressed by a line below the words, rising where the voice rises, & falling where it falls. A sentence may be made to convey as many meanings as it contains words, by altering the inflections of the voice.

13. Intonations may be expressed by marks or figures above or below the letters. (W. 8)

These rules must be strictly observed in writing for a learner: but in literature, & in daily business, they will be somewhat modified.

α. In representing an unwritten language, the only caution to be observed is that the standard pronunciation of it should be followed, where any such is recognised. So that where an orthography has first been based upon the pronunciation of the lower orders, or provincials, it may have to be remodelled when the better classes of the capital are reached. This is a small evil: but it would be a serious one to debar the majority of educated people from the use of an alphabet by persisting in using incorrect spelling.

β. In the case of a language which is already spelled phonetically, the only precaution will be to follow the standard orthography.

γ. In the case of a language which is now unphonetically spelled, it will sometimes be necessary to allot more than one sign to a Native letter, (as th for ţ &c.)— & sometimes — (as with the Italian gn, or the English gh in rough,)— to give a single sign to a group of Native letters.

The rules will be:—

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When a letter always receives the same sound from all correct speakers, it will always be represented by the same Phonetic letter. At Madras, which must now be considered the arbiter of Tamil pronunciation, the letter ழ receives from all good speakers the sound of ழ. It should, therefore, be uniformly represented by ழ, in spite of the local pronunciations of it as ள, ல, ர, &c. On this principle, the double ரர be expressed by ற. But as this pronunciation seems to be a corruption, — & one unknown to the cognate languages, ற seems a preferable rendering.

15. But a letter which receives from correct speakers different sounds, though always the same sound in the same word, should be expressed in each case, by the Phonetic equivalent of the sound it bears. Thus, the syllable தி (see Rule 9, page 12) — uniformly receives the 2 sounds ti & thi in tithi (a lunar day), & uniformly receives the 2 sounds di & dhi in didhi (steadfastness); & should be transcribed accordingly. This principle applies to the Sanskrit (Caldwell p 30)

The following rule applies to all languages, written or unwritten:

16a. Each word must always be spelled in the same way, through the whole region of a language, however much it may vary in orthography or sound. Local peculiarities are easily pictured off; & are of no consequence except to people on the spot: — but it would be intolerable if the people of different districts could not understand each other's writings. What a nuisance it would be if each modern nation spelled Greek & Latin according to local notions of pronunciation. The example given on page 47 of the larger pamphlet will give some idea of the confusion it would cause. I took down the Germen pronunciation without looking at the Greek, & often had no idea what words were meant.

16b. This rule is merely parallel (page 7) extended. The best Phonetic alphabet could not produce uniformity in pronunciation, unless persons were sent about to illustrate the sound intended. A Yorkshireman, seeing that ர is to be pronounced like the a in Father, which he pronounces Fother, would naturally identify the symbol with the sound of o. And even if uniformity could be established, it would not last. Innovations are continually being introduced, from affectation as well as from a desire to reform. On this account a standard orthography should shew the origin & history of words, rather than their pronunciation at any given time. The latter should be shewn in books for learners; but not in literature or business.

17. Every letter in a word should be transcribed. Thus dawg ought not be written dar, though it is pronounced so. — (In writing for a learner, the w would be made very small.) — This follows from 16b. Professors Lee & Lepsius have not observed this rule, in the case of ר, so that it is impossible to write in Hebrew from their spellings.

I do not look upon the ʿ, ʾ, ʰ, ʼ, ı, o, ᵘ of Arabic as letters. The hamza is provided for when necessary, by an apostrophe — the jazm & tashdíd requiring no symbol:— the tanwín may be represented in a learner by a little n;— & the wasla, or mark of union, will be denoted by a hyphen.

18. Every compound word should be split up into its component parts: & these should be connected by hyphens or apostrophes, as a proper for a learner or at least. Thus, the phrase "to them that were bidden" would be expressed in Tamil by "aḷaikka-ppaṭṭ'avargaḷ-ukkaṭṭukku"; though this is written in Tamil as a single word.

Where an apostrophe is used, a hyphen is not necessary. It shews by itself that there is a close connection between the successive words.

19. When a letter is elided in combination, its place should be marked by an apostrophe. Thus, the name which is commonly spelled "Ramiah" should be written ரா'ம' Aiyar, or ரா'ம'ய்ய, or ரா'ம'ய்ய, according to the language in which it occurs.

20. A word which has been altered in being introduced into a new language should be represented in its new spelling by a person writing in the new language. Thus, the caste-name ரான (Rón') should be represented by ரோன் in Canarese, by ரோன் in Tamil; & in ... — & the Arabic taʿalukah, "a lordship", will appear in Tamil as தாலுக்கா.

21. When the name of a place is pronounced or written differently by different races among its inhabitants, the pronunciation or spelling which seems to be the original should be followed exclusively; unless the supporters of another version are very much more numerous or influential. A well-known port on Canara is called ஹொன்னாவர், கார்வார், &c by different races. We cut the knot, & call it 'Mangalore'.

22. When using a phonetic alphabet, every word & name should be phonetically spelled. I would not spell 'rice' அரிசி, nor 'sugar' சக்கரை, nor "cheroot" சுருட்டு, in English, because a phonetic alphabet is generally used when native words occur:— but any word which is not now found in Hyde Clarke's or any other good English dictionary should be phonetically spelled. A Madrassee has only to take up an advertisement from the Sanjád to feel the inconvenience of the present want of system.

And every name, without exception, I would spell phonetically. It is not more difficult to write Madjikere than 'Mercara: & while the former spelling would enable a traveller to pronounce the word correctly at sight, the latter would lead to a pronunciation which is unintelligible to a Native unacquainted with our oddities. One may be within a mile of a place, & unable to find it — (I speak from experience) — owing to the spelling of our maps. What Native of Madras or Manufacturer would guess what was meant if he heard the common English pronunciation of a name familiar to him from his infancy? When a traveller knows that "Vellore" is pronounced வேலூர், how is he to guess that "Trivellore", a town in the next

district, is anything but time-serving? It has been proposed to retain the barbarous English spelling of those names which occur most frequently in Indian history: but it does not appear for whose benefit the arrangement is designed. It can scarcely be for the English residents in India, — who are greatly inconvenienced by the confusion. There are but few people in England who are interested in the matter. They find but little difficulty in picking up what they guess to be Indian names; & it is not clear why they should have more difficulty with names correctly spelled. Most of them have become familiar with Phonetic spelling from reading Lane's Modern Egyptians & Arabian Nights, Robinson's Biblical Researches, & other such books. We ought to have some consideration for foreigners. Till lately they have been obliged to copy our miserable kakography; & consequently had no idea of the real sounds of Indian names. Now, however, times are changing; phonetic spellings are being sent home by foreigners, & are being given in their maps. The "Atlas "der evangelischen Missions-gesellschaft in Basel" may be quoted as an example procurable in India. Our spelling is therefore an anachronism now. Phonetic spelling was used in 1843, if not before, — in Elphinstone's History of India it was used in 1847 in Keightley's History: & in has been used this year in Murray's Handbook for India.

It is said that "if the orthography of names is altered, "the names in their amended form will not be identified "with themselves as they stood previous to emendation." But no difficulty has been experienced yet, although spellings have been altered frequently: & the books & maps in which the old spellings are preserved will last as long as they are needed.

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